September, 2005 situation has improved considerably. After completion/ commissioning of the new international terminal building module-I (totally air conditioned) and cargo complex by the end of December, 2005, there will be further improvement in the services. However, in view of the fast growing traffic, some modifications have been suggested in ongoing works so as to match with the second module of international terminal building.

Decongestion of airports

600. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aircraft movements have grown rapidly in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of growth with details during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that flights are being delayed for take off and landing due to this increase in air traffic; and

(d) the steps taken to decongest airports so as to avoid delay of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The compound growth rate of aircraft movement was 9.9%, 14.4% and 11.9% for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. During peak hours and due to weather related problems etc. sometimes delays do take place.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) gives Incentives to airlines to operate and park their aircraft at other than notified international airports.

AAI has also initiated action to provide additional parking stands, expansion/upgradation of terminal buildings, runways, taxiways at many airports. These steps would help decongest the airports facing traffic congestion.

New Airport at Arunachal Pradesh

†601. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an airport in Arunachal Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At the request of State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, three proposed sites in Itanagar namely Gumto Imchi, Banderdeva and Nirjouli village were inspected by a team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) during May, 2005. All the three sites were not found suitable for development of an airport for operation of 50 seater type of aircraft. The State Government has, accordingly, been requested to suggest alternate suitable sites for airport.

Purchase of aircraft by AI

602. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally cleared Air India's Plan of Rs. 40,000 crore fleet acquisition from U.S. Manufacturer, Boeing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that two proposals of the Air India to acquire 64 aircrafts were cleared by the Public Investment Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Investment Board in its meeting held on 13th October, 2005 has approved the proposal for acquisition of 50 aircraft by Air India and 18 aircraft by Air India Charters Limited (AICL). In accordance with guidelines on public investment these proposals will now be placed before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Amendment in Civil Aviation Requirement

603. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) are not in consonance with the recently amended Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955 and guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on duel citizenship;